

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996
From: "Jack Giehl" <JACKG@s1.xetron.com>
Subject: 110 VDC PTT Relays
Message-ID: <99DCB490C7F@s1.xetron.com>

Dear BA Enthusiasts,

Ok, you Johnson addicts, you want a new relay to add PTT to your Ranger or whatever? Here is your solution.

H&R, aka Herbach and Rademan, have P&B KA style open frame, 3PDT, single hole 6-32 screw mount relays for..... \$1.95, yes, \$1.95 each. I bought five of them a few months ago, and they are new and unused. I put one of them in a Ranger, and it works great.

They carry KH, KUP, and KRP type relays also, plus lots of other stuff. H&R buys up surplus electronics and resells it. There are always good buys in their catalogs. Goodies like power transformers, resistors, etc.

What is their phone number, you say? 1-800-848-8001 They do have a minimum order of \$25, with a \$5 service fee for orders of less than \$25 merchandise total, so you might want to just call them and ask for a catalog first, so you can get your order up to \$25.

Jack

73,

=====
Jack, WB8BFS
jackg@xetron.com Loveland, Ohio (near Cincinnati)
=====

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996
From: johnmb <johnmb@nando.net>
Subject: AM hams manned Bosnia - bound stn
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960209092756.20142E-1000000@bessel.nando.net>

Please note the presence of several esteemed AMers aboard the ops list for this station

----- Forwarded message -----

{from arrl}

A corrected version of ARLX005 follows.

Hams are helping a Bosnia-bound US Army mobile AM radio station at Fort Meade, Maryland, test its broadcasting capabilities. The station, assisted by a group of Amateur Radio AM enthusiasts in the

Washington, DC, area, seeks reception reports. Fred Cresce, KC4MOP; Steve Ickes, WB3HUZ, Ken Moffat, N3EAR, and Paul Courson, WA3VJB, are staffing the new Army Broadcast Service station on 1670 kHz, which is identifying itself as ABS Radio and playing music. The frequency is in the newly expanded Standard Broadcast Band.

Courson, a broadcaster with Dow Jones, says the station began broadcasting around the clock February 5 and so far has received reports from as far away as California. He said he and the other hams were brought in to help specifically because of their AM activity on the amateur bands. The 5000-W transmitter is working into a 150-foot vertical antenna the hams helped set up and tune. The station will continue broadcasting from Fort Meade until February 9. Then, the portable station will be packed up for transport to Bosnia, where it will be set up to entertain and inform US troops stationed there.

Reception reports go to the Army Broadcast Service, 601 North Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA 22314. Write DX on the outside of the envelope.

NNNN
/EX

--

Jay D. Miller, III
4613 Jupiter St. N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87107-3944
USA

Lat. 35 07 47 N
Long. 106 38 28.0 W

elevation: 4,958 feet

ARS: WA5WHN

Internet: WA5WHN@rt66.com or WA5WHN@swcp.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996
From: Nick England <nick@cs.unc.edu>
Subject: AM on 3885 with SX-88 receivers
Message-ID: <199602091953.0AA19122@altair.cs.unc.edu>

And Andy's homebrew 813 rig (check out his web page) sounded great on my SX-88 and certainly zapped a clear path through the ether.

Nick KD4CPL
havin' fun!

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996
From: Andy Wallace <wallace@mc.com>
Subject: Andy Howard's tx / Drake B-line on AM?
Message-ID: <9602091303.AA14135@taku>

----- Begin Included Message -----

From: Andy Howard WA4KCY <102452.362@compuserve.com>
Subject: AM on 3885 with SX-88 receivers

With what may have been a first in many years Nick (KD4CPL) and myself (WA4KCY) made contact on 3885 AM with both of us using SX-88 receivers. Now that is the way AM is supposed to sound. Thank you to Andy Wallace for the report via BA list.

----- End Included Message -----

Tweren't me! I sent you email, not to the List. :-) But I will say that the signal was plenty loud up here in Massachusetts.

I was trying to adjust the Drake B-line for AM transmission. It uses controlled-carrier and the manual only makes some vague statement about "adjust GAIN until meter kicks up to xx mA." I thought I had it right; called a few CQs and noticed the kick wasn't as high anymore. Went into a dummy load and in TUNE mode I was down to 40W! Yeow. Thought I had killed the finals somehow.

I left it off for a while and decided to recheck before I went to bed. Output was back to 130W into a dummy load. Whew.

Dunno what I overstressed but I will ask the List what to do here. It seemed like I was getting about 10W carrier out and perhaps 50W on a whistle in this funky semi-AM mode. Is there a better way? There are spare holes in the chassis for RCA connectors and maybe I should add a meter for grid current, at least until I know what I am doing!

Andy's web page is nice, by the way! I think it was:
<http://ourpworld.compuserve.com/homepages/sweetbay>

Lots of nice BAs, Andy.

73,
--Andy
wallace@mc.com

P.S. I imagine the real solution is to get a REAL AM tx and leave the Drake for SSB/CW! Time to dive into the Johnson Challenger.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996
From: MIKE SANDERS <ks0f@basic.net>
Subject: Archives
Message-ID: <199602091814.MAA02917@basic.net>

Greetings,

About a hundred and twelve years ago someone took 8mm movies of me (age 13) abusing a J-38 in front of a xtal controlled 1 tube osc. and a New Gonset G-33 receiver. That film is long long gone. Those of you that have such old loops please include them in the items dear enough to hold for the future enjoyment (ok maybe just amazement and confusion) of others. Like the audio tapes/wires etc. they are very valuable and can be transferred to more current and readily available media.

73 de KS0F

ks0f@basic.net

P.S. The above mentioned film feature was really action packed. If you looked real close you could see my wrist move.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996
From: "Mike O'Brien" <mobrien@lib.drury.edu>
Subject: B-29 radio gear
Message-ID: <9602091545.AA12728@lib.drury.edu>

When FiFi visited a local air show a couple of years back, I had opportunity to tour its impressive innards. The radioman's workstation included only a BC-348 as the sole piece of authentic gear. However, one of the volunteer crew who claimed to be knowledgeable about period communications confirmed what I, too, had seen in old Collins ads -- namely, that these amazing old birds were equipped with the ART-13 transmitter. In fact, he mentioned that the CAF was in the process of assembling a complete

vintage station to install in the plane, with the more modern avionics to be tucked away as much as practical...

Mike O'Brien NONLQ

Mike O'Brien (mobrien@lib.drury.edu)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996
From: "Christopher A.Bowne" <radiobwn@q.continuum.net>
Subject: RE: B-29 radios?
Message-ID: <199602091134.GAA29392@q.continuum.net>

Bill Standerfer wrote:

As for the radio gear, the B-29 had a normal complement of equipment including: BC-348 receiver, BC-375 transmitter, TU-8/TU-9/TU-27 tuning units, BC-221 frequency meter, and, of course, command set transmitters and receivers. There are various other miscellaneous pieces, too (IFF, etc.).

Most of the airplanes used during WWII have been documented for model builders in small books you can find at a good hobby shop. They usually have acceptable shots of the interior, but don't completely identify the radio gear.

There are several of those books that document the B-29. One shows several interior shots of the radio op's position, which includes an ART-13, BC-348, and Command Sets.

I believe that the B-29 was originally designed to use the BC-375 as the liaison transmitter. When I visited the Enola Gay exhibit as the NASM, I was disappointed that no access to the plane interior was provided, except for a rather boring view of the bomb bay. A copy of a pilots manual, under glass was opened to the interior cut-away view, which clearly showed a BC-375 as the liaison TX.

I had a CW QSO with a former AAF radioman who said that the early B-29s used in the CBI theater did use BC-375s, but the ones used in the Pacific theater used the ART-13s.

A reproduction of a Collins ad from a 1944 QST in McMahon's "A Flick of the Switch" shows a B-17 in a B-29 and says "With the B-29s from the first!" Maybe that was a bit of hype by Collins?

I read that the ART-13 cost the govt. 14 kilobucks a copy when new. A listing of

acquisition prices of various WW2 military radios I read somewhere generally showed much higher prices for Collins equipment than from other vendors even for equipment that was similar in function and complexity.

Was Collins getting "sweetheart contracts", or was the gear really that much more expensive to produce?

73,

Chris Bowne, AJ1G
Stonington, CT
radiobwn@q.continuum.net
AMI No. 211

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996
From: Sandy Blaize <70401.134@compuserve.com>
Subject: RE: B-29 radios?
Message-ID: <960209165653_70401.134_IHD37-1@CompuServe.COM>

Don't forget the famous "Classified" SCR-522 VHF radio! Nearly all the bombers had them once they went into production. Rumor has it that the Germans didn't believe that practical communications was possible in that frequency range!

There were still many in use in the 1950's even after the ARC-3 came out as its replacement. (Wow! 8 channels instead of just 4!)

73,
Sandy W5TVW

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996
From: w7ni@teleport.com (Stan Griffiths)
Subject: BA Sighting
Message-ID: <199602091825.KAA26496@desiree.teleport.com>

I was up in the wee hours this morning trying to catch up on the latest flood news here in the Northwest when I tuned into an old sci-fi movie in progress that I did not recognize. There were 3 guys and a girl from Earth stranded on some strange planet and trying to contact home on their Tektronix 545 scope! Funny, theirs didn't get out any better than mine do . . .

When this flick finally came to an end I discovered it was "The Angry Red Planet" and I was REALLY surprised when I read the credits as they were scrolling by. There he was. The Still Photographer: Roger Mace. Roger is now a silent key but was well known in LA as W6RW. He owned 4 75A4s and a bunch of low power Collins cw exciters that I can't remember the model

number of. I operated a few times at Roger's Hollywood Hills home in the early '60s. . .

Hey, I don't know why I read old movie credits. I guess I am just trying to find out if they ever used the same guy twice as the "Key Grip" or the "Best Boy". I don't think so . . .

Stan W7NI@teleport.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996
From: Ken Corwin <kenc@smartdocs.com>
Subject: BC-224\BC-348 Receivers
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960209140408.468A-1000000@warp10.smartlink.net>

Greetings to All-

Thanks to those individuals who have taken the time thus far to contribute to the file on these receivers. I appreciate your effort. Before this information can be put into the BA archive, a little more information is needed (there are just too many gaps at this point in time).

NO information has yet turned up on the following receivers:

BC-224-D, -E, -G, -I, -J
BC-348-D, -F, -G, -I

Manufacturers and tube line-ups have been identified for the following receivers, but no order numbers or serial numbers:

BC-224-F, -K
BC-348-B, -E, -K, -N

Please contact me directly (keeps the traffic down here) if you can supply manufacturer names, order numbers, serial numbers and/or tube lineup or any other information relevant to these receivers.

The first receivers were 14-volt units. Were these receivers used with the BC-191 (14-volt BC-375) and, if so, what was the SCR number assigned to the combination?

A hash total of the high serial numbers supplied thus far, tends to indicate that more than 69,500 of these receivers were manufactured, mostly in Chicago, by Belmont and Wells-Gardner.

Thanks again,

Ken Corwin (kenc@smartdocs.com)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996
From: dt@scotborders.co.uk (David Topham - Arts & Science)
Subject: Body-end-dot
Message-ID: <9602091739.AA28328@scotborders.co.uk>

Sandy W5TVW said of an RME-69 "It is full of "body-end-dot" radial lead
"dog-bone" resistors"... ...a story:

As a student in 196xxx I got a job in a radio factory. It was still making
mil equipment to WWII designs. One equipment was the "Class D Wavemeter". We
were making lots of them and ran out of 1k resistors. There was a drawing.
They were brown body, black end, red dot. Stores had none, but took the drawing.

Next day the resistors arrived and the line started again. Everything piled
up "fail" at final test. It was *that* resistor. Stores had found some
brown/black/orange resistors and repainted the spot red to conform with the
drawing...

.that factory should remain anonymous, but it *wont* :-) it was Pye :-)

73, David GM3WKB dt@artscience.scotborders.co.uk

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996
From: "Randy Zelick" <RANDY@sbii.sb2.pdx.edu>
Subject: Re: Body-end-dot
Message-ID: <109F967593D@sbii.sb2.pdx.edu>

Well David,

Imust say that after reading your story about repainting resistors I suddenly
began giggling.
It is not a story eliciting a guffaw, mind you, but I have not stopped giggling
for some time
now and possibly approaching a record.

Later,

=Randy=
Randy Zelick
Dept. Biology
Portland State University
P.O. Box 751

Portland, OR 97207
503-725-3086 (voice), 503-725-3864 (fax)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996
From: "ROBERT W DOWNS, WA5CAB" <103012.2130@compuserve.com>
Subject: Re: Cap Replacements, BA 470
Message-ID: <960209134004_103012.2130_GHU39-1@CompuServe.COM>

Group,

Without any significant heat, let alone flame, I'd like to take mild exception to the 'if it's paper, replace it' comment. Paper dielectric capacitors come in several flavors; waxed, plastic or metal cased tubular, rectangular plastic (the ones that look like large microns), metal cased ones commonly called "bathtub" and the larger rectangular metal. All of the metal cased ones may be either dry or oil filled.

My experience is that the only group which should automatically be suspected are the Sprague Black Beauty's, even if unused. I've actually found more bad (i.e., wrong value, usually too high) carbon composition resistors than I have capacitors, but they are harder to spot. Mostly they go undetected. Even the much maligned wax coated paper ones, seldom used in straight military gear, are more often good than bad. A common comment that I see here and in articles in our magazines is "I found a bad XXXX type capacitor so I changed them all". I call this the rotten apple syndrome, which is applicable to apples and sometimes people but NOT to capacitors, resistors or tubes. I cringe whenever I get a new (to me) military set, and find it full of those damned orange drop caps. Funny thing - you never hear of anyone changing all the transformers or coils just because one was bad.

Anyway, what I started out to say was that I have over fifty BC-221's, made between 1935 and 1945. They all have several rectangular plastic cased paper dielectric capacitors. I've checked out over thirty of the sets (the rest are mostly hanger queens) and use several of them fairly frequently. I've had to replace only one capacitor. On the other hand, the 1200 ohm B+ dropping resistor in the associated RA-133 AC power supply has been way out of tolerance in nine out of eleven cases, so I routinely check them whenever I find a new supply.

Also, the presence of a little oil (usually green, for those new to the game) on or around an oil filled cap doesn't necessarily mean the cap is bad. It may just mean that the set has been up to 35,000 feet a few times too many. Wipe it off and check it before you change it.

My motto, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. .

73, Robert W. Downs, WA5CAB

103012.2130@compuserve.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996
From: Sandy Blaize <70401.134@compuserve.com>
Subject: Re: Cap Replacements, BA 470
Message-ID: <960209165657_70401.134_IHD37-3@CompuServe.COM>

Bob,

I have had considerable trouble with the black "micamold" paper capacitors. So much so, that I have "shotgun" replaced them whenever I find one bad in a piece of gear that uses them. True mica caps (postage stamp type and the new dipped micas) almost never go bad. I have had old gear loaded with tubular paper capacitors that were STILL good, and some with plastic tubulars that were ALL bad. It's really a mixed bag, some will give you trouble, others will be good. I too have seen oodles of brand new Sprague "Black Beauty" caps that were physically and electrically "leaky". Especially the ones with white or yellow lettering. The ones with orange lettering seem to be constructed better.

I had a National NC-183D receiver that had all its original capacitors, ALL good. Even the electrolytics! In typical National style, nearly ALL the resistors had changed value and were WAY out of tolerance. (Like 2.2K ones reading 5-7 K and 100K ones measuring 500-600K!) They made good components but didn't make good resistors. Lots of people don't know that National made just about ALL the parts that went into their sets, where outfits like Hallicrafters got a lot of their parts from outside manufacturers. Sort of a "hangover" from the 'old days' I guess. A la Atwater Kent making everything that went into their sets. They even had their own resistor color codes!

An RME-69 I have, had a crowd of the old beeswax dipped paper tubulars in it. They were ALL quite leaky. The set worked even at that. Performance improved considerably when I replaced them though! It is full of "body-end-dot" radial lead "dog-bone" resistors. Most of them are still alive and going! The oil-filled caps in the power supply filter are still good (so far!). Guess this set was made around

1936,
it's a year older than I am!
73,
Sandy W5TVW

~~~~~  
Boat Anchors collected, restored, modified and used!

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com  
Subject: Re: Cap Replacements, BA 470  
Message-ID: <9602091844.AA06549@bock.ih.att.com>

Funny you should mention National. I had the same experience with an NC-101-X. Even the electrolytics were good, just as in yours. So were all the wax-paper firecrackers, which looked no different from the crummy ones found in an old Silvertone or whatever, but were all in good shape.

I did have to replace a resistor or two, and swap a pair of "equal" ones around in a voltage divider circuit for the screen B+. They were all B-E-D dogbones. I was impressed to see a ham rx this old, using parts I normally associate with home sets. Certainly the oldest ham gear I've ever worked on, tho the tubes were newer (octal) than the 6/7-pin jobs in the 1940 RAS I once owned.

I sold the 101X to a List member in 6-land, so now the only National I have is an NC-170, which looks, feels, and works like it was subcontracted out to Hallicrafters -- but for \$25 with matching speaker, not bad. I hope it will improve after I dig into it.

Didn't know that National made Rs and Cs -- everything else in the 101X, even the transformers and chokes, was National. Most of that applies to Hammarlunds as well. 73, mike k w9nrd/ae

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: sick@admin.swcc.cc.ia.us (Wade Sick)  
Subject: Collins 32V-1 repair (replacing C401)  
Message-ID: <v01530503ad411d881bcc@[199.201.203.15]>

Is there an easy way of replacing C401 on my 32V-1? It is shorted and needs replaced. The HV, .001 pF capacitor is held in place by two phillips screws that are difficult to get at even with a right angle screwdriver. I do have a replacement cap rated at 5 kV that will work.

As it is right now, HV is on the antenna terminal. A short occurs whenever

my coax switch is placed in an unused (shorted) position- to say nothing of the potential for trouble when you have 600+ volts out to the antenna!

Thanks for suggestions.

```
*****
Wade Sick- Physics/Math Prof.          e-mail:sick@admin.swcc.cc.ia.us
Southwestern Comm. College             Amateur Radio Call: WB00KA
1501 W Towline
Creston IA 50801                       515.782.7081
*****
```

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: "L. Mark Pilant - MS": "ZK03-4/Y02 DTN:381-1529" <pilant@seesaw.ENET.dec.com>  
Subject: Component testing  
Message-ID: <9602091355.AA16242@us2rmc.zko.dec.com>

Having started to get back into electronics after being idle for many years, I'm finding out just how much I don't know :-( I think it mostly boils down to: I have a reasonably good understanding of how the various component are supposed to work, but a real sparse understanding of the various failure modes. Especially with all the talk about bad caps lately.

Most of my previous was building from scratch, and the pieces were usually simply enough that they worked the first time; or the problem was obvious :-)

I obtained an R-390A about a month ago, and I'd like to give it a going over. I'm wondering what folks do to test the various components (in and out of the circuit).

Tubes, resistors, and inductors are generally very easy to test with a tube tester and VOM/VTVM. However, testing capacitors does not appear to be as simple. (Unless you have LCR meter or appropriate bridge handy.)

A neophyte looking for trouble-shooting wisdom. Thanks in advance.

- Mark N1VQW

P.S. Pointers to books and manuals would also be useful.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: John Shriver <jas@shiva.com>  
Subject: Re: Component testing  
Message-ID: <199602091445.JAA15798@shiva-dev.shiva.com>

Ghiardi wrote a book on radio servicing ("Modern Radio Servicing"?) that's very focused on the failure modes of components, how to test them, etc. It was part of a two-volume set, the other volume being the theory of operation...

Of course, the base mode of checking a capacitor is making sure that it's not leaking, that each end is at the right DC voltage. Well, that's suitable for coupling caps. Bypasses are harder, some aren't much different in capacitance from your scope probe...

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: "Ian Abbott" <ian@emerald.gene.com>  
Subject: Fair price for and ARC-5?  
Message-ID: <9602091322.ZM27028@emerald.gene.com>

I've got a lead on a "like new" ARC-5, but I haven't heard what the owner wants for it yet. I'd appreciate price information from anyone with recent experience buying or selling an ARC-5.

Thanks!

Ian

--

-----  
Ian E. Abbott | abbott.ian@gene.com  
Genentech, Inc. | Voice: 415.225.1793  
Fermentation/Product Recovery | Pager: 415.655.9160  
Information Systems Group | Fax: 415.225.5947

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry Keith)  
Subject: Re: FRC-93 (KWM-2A) Tech Manual Still Classified!  
Message-ID: <199602092036.0AA20786@wrdis01.robins.af.mil>

In your message of 7 Feb 1996 at 0751 EST, you write:

>

>

> I called NTIS about this manual a while back and was surprised to be informed  
> that it was "classified"!

I would guess that the NTIS type may be a bit confused. I doubt that the manual is classified. However, since it is basically a Collins manual with an Army TM number on it, the Government may not be able to

sell it because Collins retained the data rights... Smart cookies,  
those Collins folks...

73,

Larry, KQ4BY

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Nick England <nick@cs.unc.edu>  
Subject: home page  
Message-ID: <199602092200.RAA19602@altair.cs.unc.edu>

I finally put one together with a few pix of the shack -  
<http://epsilon.cs.unc.edu/~nick/hobbies.html>

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: BRICKEY\_PETER@Tandem.COM  
Subject: Info on a HRO-W  
Message-ID: <199602091406.AA1337@POST.MIS.TANDEM.COM>

Hi;

I have been corresponding with a fellow that has a HRO-W for sale  
and I can not locate much info on this set. The seller says that it  
is like a HRO-5 but has a built in power supply, it also has ANT & OSC  
trimmers on the front panel. I looked the set up in Moore and he only  
says that it was a special model of the HRO-5 made for the Signal  
Core.

Does anybody have any additional info on this set?

73's Peter

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: Michael Crestohl <mc@shore.net>  
Subject: Let;s put together a collection of tapes of the Old Buzzards!!!  
Message-ID: <199602091226.AA22933@northshore.shore.net>

Hello Keepers of the Filament String.....Mike W9NRD/ae wrote:

On Wed, 7 Feb 96 10:52:52 CST,

>Speaking of BAs and the military -- last nite I put another old reel of wire

>on the Silvertone wire recorder console I've been fixing up. Turned out  
>to be Gen Douglas MacArthur's farewell address to Congress (after being  
>sacked by Truman), complete with news commentary before and after!  
>Anyone thinking about Red China today should give it a listen...  
>Previous owners had recorded it off the built-in radio. Great fidelity  
>after 44 years. 73, mike k w9nrd/ae  
>  
>PS: Wonder if any hams recorded their QSOs back in the 50s?

Somewhere I have some old tapes of the late 1960s and early 1970s. I  
used to collect them. Maybe it'd be a good idea to start a tape archive  
register to see who's got what. Maybe we could work out an exchange  
thing.

Someone MUST have tapes of the great old Buzzards that are now long  
gone qrt. Characters like Myron "No Kids, No Lids, No Space Cadets, No  
K-Phonies, Class A Ops only!" W20Y and W1TJX - Stal from Putnam CT. Dig  
'em out. I have a few bits and pieces here and there, but the best  
collection of tapes I know of unfortunately are gone forever - they  
burned in Tim WA1HLR's disasterous house fire in 1992. A lot of great  
boatanchors went up in flames that day. It depressed me just to think of  
it.

Although this is not strictly Boatanchor stuff - I have some hilarious tapes  
of the famous Southern California Repeater Wars of the late 1970s and  
early 1980s. Come to think of it, some of those repeaters were tube finals.  
So I guess its applicable after all.

Cordially,

Michael Crestohl, KH6KD/W1  
mc@shore.net

PS: Maybe we could make up a collection of .voc or .wav files and put  
them in the archives. This stuff should be preserved!

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: "James C. Owen, III" <owen@apollo.eeel.nist.gov>  
Subject: RE: Let;s put together a collection of tapes of the Old Buzzards!!!  
Message-ID: <33563.owen@apollo.eeel.nist.gov>

> Someone MUST have tapes of the great old Buzzards that are now long  
> gone qrt. Characters like Myron "No Kids, No Lids, No Space Cadets, No  
> K-Phonies, Class A Ops only!" W20Y and W1TJX - Stal from Putnam CT. Dig  
> 'em out.

>  
> Michael Crestohl, KH6KD/W1  
>  
>  
> PS: Maybe we could make up a collection of .voc or .wav files and put  
> them in the archives. This stuff should be preserved!

>  
Boy do you bring back memories Michael. These old "Buzzards" are what got me first interested in Ham Radio. I use to listen to these guy's on the old Doyle Regen and nearly die laughing. I think that I was one of the few teenagers that Myron W20Y would talk to. I use to work him, W20Y and Madison W4YTU almost every morning before catching the bus to HS. Another old timer that some may remember is Ronk W4MYJ in Martinsville, Va. "988 Watts to a pair of 807's, summerged in a bucket of ice water with a dishpan for a grid leak". Do you remember? Somewhere I have a tape of a portion of one of W4MYJ's contacts. I'll have to look for it. 73 Jim K4CGY

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu  
Subject: Re: Let;s put together a collection of tapes of the Old Buzzards!!!  
Message-ID: <9602091629.AA105554@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu>

>  
> Hello Keepers of the Filament String.....Mike W9NRD/ae wrote:

May yer filaments be a 'glowin' brightly in the wee small hours.....

> On Wed, 7 Feb 96 10:52:52 CST,  
>  
> >Speaking of BAs and the military -- last nite I put another old reel of wire  
> >on the Silvertone wire recorder console I've been fixing up. Turned out  
> >to be Gen Douglas MacArthur's farewell address to Congress (after being  
> >sacked by Truman), complete with news commentary before and after!  
> >Anyone thinking about Red China today should give it a listen...  
> >Previous owners had recorded it off the built-in radio. Great fidelity  
> >after 44 years. 73, mike k w9nrd/ae  
> >  
> >PS: Wonder if any hams recorded their QSOs back in the 50s?

Definitely this kind of thing is worth preserving for posterity, especially since it was on a boatanchor machine. Someone patch it into a reel-reel for mastering and then onto cassettes for anyone that wants them, amongst the group.

> Somewhere I have some old tapes of the late 1960s and early 1970s. I  
> used to collect them. Maybe it'd be a good idea to start a tape archive



> register to see who's got what. Maybe we could work out an exchange  
> thing.

Definitely. A tape archive would be of significant interest if it  
in any way reflects the radio of boatanchordom.

I have some things that might be of interest.

- a) several distress SOS incidences and related traffic from 600M.
- b) broadcasts of commercial radio officers press over the past 20 years.  
Mostly from Chatham Radio, some significant, most routine.
- c) one of the last real RCA Globecom CW press runs from about 1979.  
The quality is abysmal, but historically it is of value, perhaps.
- d) closing broadcasts and wx/notices runs from NMN/USCG.
- e) my OM at speed on a bug in qso with a faltering novice (me) in a  
transcontinental qso about 1970. Not much historically, but it  
was run using BA gear in the real BA era.
- f) my OM's oral radio history from 1914 spark through WWII merchant  
marine voyages as sparks (alas it was not finished for later years  
as he went on the final watch). Some interesting information about  
early spark and ham and commercial operations.

> Someone MUST have tapes of the great old Buzzards that are now long  
> gone qrt. Characters like Myron "No Kids, No Lids, No Space Cadets, No  
> K-Phonies, Class A Ops only!" W20Y and W1TJX - Stal from Putnam CT. Dig  
> 'em out. I have a few bits and pieces here and there, but the best  
> collection of tapes I know of unfortunately are gone forever - they  
> burned in Tim WA1HLR's disastrous house fire in 1992. A lot of great  
> boatanchors went up in flames that day. It depressed me just to think of  
> it.

Sorry about the house fire. Reminds me of a certain tornado that  
came through Raleigh in '88. The backyard looked like the debris  
field of the Titanic with a shed full of BA materials strewn for  
hundreds of feet downwind. It makes one treasure what does survive  
the test of time.

These kinds of tapes would be wonderful to have around. Would anyone  
have any recordings of things like old spark stations, or alternator  
stations? Such things may have been recorded on disks, but where would  
such be found these days? Check the local museums maybe?

How about someone like ol' 6AM mobile CW on tape.....

> Although this is not strictly Boatanchor stuff - I have some hilarious tapes  
> of the famous Southern California Repeater Wars of the late 1970s and  
> early 1980s. Come to think of it, some of those repeaters were tube finals.  
> So I guess its applicable after all.

Some of that most definitely would be worthwhile from the historical point.

Maybe, we should all dig through what tidbits we all may have and submit  
any list of what was around still.

It might be a fun BA related project, and it would be MAGNIFICENT for things  
like the museum displays I occasionally do for the NC Museum of History.  
I am always on the lookout for any good background ``music'' for displays.  
When we did a 50th anniversary display of WWII, last year, we had a tape  
of the Dec 7th speech of Roosevelt declaring war playing along with some  
random cw traffic (wx bcsts), and then had a TCS and a B-17 bomber set  
running special event with some ol' Navy ops. It was quite effective as  
a display mechanism with the added tapes playing.

Another thing that one might also want to have around are actual as-sent  
message transcripts WITH simulated Morse transmissions. The messages of  
historical value would be treasures. I have a few messages saved up  
in text format and in an accurate Morse playable computer generated format.  
These are messages from some SOS incidents, including the sinking of  
the Titanic, the M/V Protektor, and the M/V Salvador Allende, and some  
transcripts of ships radio newspapers from a Liberty Ship (my OM's) out  
in the Pacific in WWII. I am sure that others could come up with  
many kinds of historically accurate as-sent messages that one would  
have heard on CW in that era. I have a good friend who copied the  
death of FDR message from the jungles of Burma, but alas, he does not  
have his copy of it anymore.

Also, a real qso with spark stations would be fun to have (alas, no  
antennas are allowed, but it would be fun to run up the ol' rotary  
gap and the ol' plain gap sets with some real OT CW chops running some  
qso's at speed on pumphandles or bugs. Again, it would make fine  
background music. Much better than the kludged stuff that one hears  
occasionally on tv shows.

Does anyone have recordings of historical special event stations.  
The old WCC special event station used MCW modulation (verboden on HF  
except by special written permission from the FCC) to emulate spark.  
Recordings of that would be fun to have.

> Cordially,  
> Michael Crestohl, KH6KD/W1  
> mc@shore.net

> PS: Maybe we could make up a collection of .voc or .wav files and put  
> them in the archives. This stuff should be preserved!

That would be an interesting thought. Or maybe just master a collection  
onto a music CD.

Things to think about as a subset of boatanchordom.....

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: "Dick Dillman" <ddillman@igc.apc.org>  
Subject: Re: Let;s put together a collection of tapes of the Old Buzzards!!!  
Message-ID: <48417.ddillman@igc.apc.org>

On Fri, 9 Feb 1996 06:27:00 -0600 (CST),  
Michael Crestohl <mc@shore.net> wrote:

>Someone MUST have tapes of the great old Buzzards that are now long  
>gone qrt. Characters like Myron "No Kids, No Lids, No Space Cadets, No  
>K-Phonies, Class A Ops only!" W20Y and W1TJX - Stal from Putnam CT.

Wow! I hadn't thought of him probably since the last time I heard him  
as a Novice on Long Island.

>PS: Maybe we could make up a collection of .voc or .wav files and put  
>them in the archives. This stuff should be preserved!

Indeed, yes! Perhaps even as Real Audio files on the BA home page?

Dick Dillman  
WPE2VT N6VS ex-WA2BJK  
<ddillman@igc.apc.org>  
Collector of Heavy Metal:  
Harleys, Willys and Radios Over 100lbs.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com  
Subject: Re: Let;s put together a collection of tapes of the Old Buzzards!!!  
Message-ID: <9602091829.AA06536@bock.ih.att.com>

Lotsa neat stuff.

One thing I have, sort of related, is a 45-RPM record put out by Hallicrafters  
to help sell their sets to the public for SWLing. I forget the title,

but it's fun. It has one of those classic nervous-but-masculine announcers from the old newscast or detective shows (maybe his name is on the record) talking about how you can copy SOS from ships at sea, police, aircraft, and yes, the Hams. There are some real (or simulated?) off-the-air excerpts, which turn out to be rather dull compared to the nervous hype of the announcer. Both sides are used, so it's probably 7+ minutes total. It even has the original paper sleeve with Hallicrafters advertising printed all over it. I found it in a pile of 45s I was going thru to stock my Worlitzer 2410S (a genuine BA in all senses of the term, and probably a ham RX when I transmit :-).

Anyway I figure this record comes from the SX-99 and S-38E era, back when big cities had stores with Halli sets in the front windows.  
73, mike k w9nrd/ae

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com  
Subject: Re: Let;s put together a collection of tapes of the Old Buzzards!!!  
Message-ID: <9602091756.AA06500@bock.ih.att.com>

Neat thought. Hey, I remember Myron from the early '60s!  
I'd go visit my Elmer, a semi-retired doctor, and he'd fire up his Morrow mobile gear, or later on his NC-300+, and we'd listen to that guy. No phonies, Class A -- must be the same guy.  
In a day when almost everyone ran AM, his 75m signal stood head and shoulders above the rest. I'd bet the FCC visted his shack at least once. Wonder what gear he was running? Homebrew? Collins?  
Converted AM-BC TX?

Depressing just to hear about that fire.

Digitized audio files would be HUGE, but might be easier than USnailing cassettes around.

Right now I'm thinking about the cleanest way to dub from my wires to cassette. Maybe right off the wire playback head. 73, mike k w9nrd/ae

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: mallick@orion.crd.ge.com (John Mallick)  
Subject: Re: Let;s put together a collection of tapes of the Old Buzzards!!!  
Message-ID: <9602091938.AA12781@orion.crd.ge.com>

I used to have one of those Hallicrafters records, but it is lost somewhere in the bowels of my mom's house. It had a title something like "Adventures in Shortwave Listening", narrated by Alex Dreier ("your man on the go"). I got mine from Hallicrafters back in the

days when I lusted after an S-120 (early '60's); thankfully my dad never bought one for me. If I recall correctly, I got the order coupon from an issue of "Boy's Life" (when life was simple, and all varmints could be handled with a .22 rifle, a knife, and a hatchet, and all medical problems could be treated with a tourniquet :-))

Luckily, I held out for a used Drake R4 (which I still use); never had a desire for an S-120 after that...

73, John WA1HNL

PS...I still have that little leatherette-covered shortwave book that came with the record.

PPS...Are you able to make anything intelligible out of that part of the record which features the Russian pilots shooting down the U2? I never could...

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: MICHAEL@ecs.umass.edu  
Subject: Re: Lucent...  
Message-ID: <01I10GN90IHYCB9FQ7@ecs.umass.edu>

>But, just for curiosity, does anyone know how someone came up with the  
>name 'Lucent?' It sounds like a contraction of 'luminescent,' as in

It's a perfectly respectable adjective, John, meaning 'shining, luminous' or, alternatively, 'transparent'. But for my money, AT&T will always be American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and this latest bunch of name changes is just more Madison Avenue hype. What's next? 21st Century Fox, I suppose.

73, John Michael  
michael@ecs.umass.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: jmartin@hrlban1.aircrew.asu.edu  
Subject: Lucent....?  
Message-ID: <SA39+YHt41a@hrlban10.alhra.af.mil>

Michael Knudsen wrote:

"Lucent Technologies" includes good old Western E  
and a lot more besides.

=====

But, just for curiosity, does anyone know how someone came up with the name 'Lucent?' It sounds like a contraction of 'luminescent,' as in

something that radiates light when excited (OK, I could buy that, particularly if CRTs or flat panel displays are part of the product line, or the company is a shining example in its field), but it also made me think of being 'lucid,' as in being sane, and that brings on a whole different thought process. I'm not trying to pick on anyone here; I just find the name sort of, well, intriguing.  
73, John Martin  
jmartin@hrlban1.aircrew.asu.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@indy.net>  
Subject: Re: Lucent....?  
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960209160736.12613A-100000@indy4>

Hi!

Two minutes free, so... From the hip, "lucent" ought to imply something akin to clarity of thought or expression. One might hope.

But I'm wrong! Per the good old 1970 American Heritage Dictionary (okay, it's not the Unabridged Webster's, but it does include a full listing of Indo-European root words, guessed at by some of the best and brightest), it means: 1. Giving off light; luminous. 2. Translucent.  
>From the Latin lucens, present participle of lucere, to shine.

So good ol' WECO is now either brilliant & illuminating, or you can sorta see right through them. Either way, it's not the same. Oh, for the days when you could go to Graybar and buy a Western Electric mixing console, amplifier--or even, a few years on, a real genuine 1A2 PBX! >sigh<  
"Congressed" again....

Only good thing that happened when they fixed the Telco was, dear Dean lost his job making phones and it led to me meeting him. ;)

73,  
--Bobbi

PS to my creditors: the check will be in the mail shortly; details to follow.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: tech@cs.athabascau.ca (Richard Loken)  
Subject: re: Lucent....?  
Message-ID: <m0tl1YU-0018YDC@aupair.cs.athabascau.ca>

Bobbie reminisces about 1A2 PBX's and Graybar and her husband...

Actually the 1A2 is a key system. Those of us who worked in THAT biz once upon a time know intuitively the differences between a key system and a PBX and a PABX... Most obvious ones are that the box is smaller and the phones look funny (they did way back then, but now all phones look funny). We used to get our 1A1 and 1A2 systems from Northern Electric, who are now NorTel who were in between Northern Telecom who were once a subsidiary of Bell Canada who were once a subsidiary of AT&T of whom WE was once a subsidiary. What is wrong with these people?

I think I saw a 1A2 manual around the house some place.

Richard Loken VE6BSV, Systems Programmer - VMS : "...underneath those  
Athabasca University : tuques we wear, our heads  
Athabasca, Alberta Canada : are naked!"  
\*\* tech@cs.athabascau.ca \*\* : - Arthur Black

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: aa4rm%amos.UUCP@mathcs.emory.edu (Marty)  
Subject: Re: Mica capacitor quandry...  
Message-ID: <9602091755.AA18001@amos.YP.mystnite>

I've seen a few failures in the red-bodied silver micas where the silver oxide migrates around the edge of the mica insulator & can cause a short.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: k3drj@radix.net (Jim Harding)  
Subject: Re: Mica capacitor quandry...  
Message-ID: <199602091812.NAA01628@news1.radix.net>

Stan W7NI said of mica caps:-

<snip>

I don't think I've seen more than two bad mica caps in the 43 years I've been fooling with electronics so I don't consider blanket replacing them. Am I missing something here?

<snip>

Back in the late seventies/early eighties, Motorola made a Solid State VHF Lo-Band mobile transceiver called a Micor. A batch of these were made with high failure rate mica caps on the low power exciter board. After a few months of service the things would come in the shop with low output power. The exciter appeared to be grossly out of alignment. Tuning coils needed

Turns to get the power back up. Now I'm of the opinion that you don't REPAIR a radio by RETUNING it, so there must be something going on here. Unfortunately, some of my peers in the shop just diddled with the tuning stick and sent them back out again. They'd just show up again with the same problem. Like many others, I've not seen micas fail at this rate, so I was looking for things like the tuning slugs vibrating to new positions in this mobile environment. I'd put pieces of rubber-band between the slug and form to tighten up any slop, etc. No luck! I then hit it with "freeze spray" and/or a heat gun and finally managed to duplicate the problem on the bench. But different radios had different value caps showing up bad. After some prodding, Motorola got involved and confirmed that the caps were from a "bad" batch during production. The "fix" was to replace ALL the micas in the last two stages of the exciter. This solved the problem. They supplied the caps under warranty.... we supplied the labor! We bought over a hundred of these radios, all with consecutive serial numbers, so it seems that these simple little mica buggers can be "made" to fail :-).

73 - Jim - K3DRJ

--

Jim Harding  
LaPlata, MD  
k3drj@radix.net

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: w7ni@teleport.com (Stan Griffiths)  
Subject: Re: Mica caps  
Message-ID: <199602091722.JAA25017@desiree.teleport.com>

>I don't think I said anything about "only finding two bad micas in 43  
>years."

Hi Hank,

I said it. It was only a matter of time until somebody got the two of us confused since we are both considered "Tek scope guys"!!

Clearly the reason I haven't seen more bad micas is that the stuff I work on doesn't use hardly any of them and the ones they do use seem to have an unusually good track record.

In the examples you gave of bad ones you found, it seemed like lots of them were above 1000 pf and so were probably paper caps disguised as micas, right?



You know, this may exist, but what the world seems to need is a good component reference book that describes various components (resistors, caps, crystals, ferrite materials, etc.) both old and new types. I would like to see "rule-of-thumb" methods for bench testing the various components and a description of proper places in a circuit to use each type of part. Capacitors are particularly confusing to me. You can get a 1000 pf cap in lots of different types: orange drop, oil filled tubular, mylar, disc ceramic, molded mica, silver mica, etc, etc. I really have no idea which one is best for which purpose. This is something that seems to be missing from the "service technician's" experience. A service technician is supposed to restore a broken product to operation. I have always felt it was pretty risky to replace a bad part with a similar but different type of part without knowing more than I do about components. Sometimes you have no choice and sometimes a different part is actually better than the original. I just don't know how to tell. I am sure that years of circuit design and failure analysis would have done wonders for me!!

Stan W7NI@teleport.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: "Integration Area" <integrat@usr.com>  
Subject: Re: Mica caps  
Message-ID: <9601098239.AA823904837@robogate.usr.com>

>You know, this may exist, but what the world seems to need is a good  
>component reference book that describes various components  
>(resistors, caps, crystals, ferrite materials, etc.)...

The \*Components Handbook\* (or something like that - I forget which number it is) of the MIT Radiation Lab series is very handy for parts from just before 1948 or so. It covers resistors, caps, wire, inductors, transformers, relays, etc., in decent detail. It also has some handy pictures so you can identify some parts, such as resistors, to the company that manufactured them.

I recommend that anyone interested in electronics restoration get a copy of this book. Books from the MIT Rad Lab series show up at hamfests quite a bit, but I have never seen the entire bunch for sale at once. Someone may be reprinting them.

William Donzelli  
integrat@usr.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com  
Subject: Re: Mica caps  
Message-ID: <9602091853.AA06557@bock.ih.att.com>

I second Stan's motion of a guide to proper usages of component types. One thing I'll pass on -- some modern ceramic caps, little .01-uF range brown disks used in logic circuits, have a little bit of piezoelectric effect in their ceramic dielectric. So guess what, they act like a low-Q crystal at a certain freq. That freq is around 1 MHz and up.

Back when I was designing TTL circuits, we were warned of what would happen if one of these bypass caps just happened to resonate at our clock frequency or a harmonic. I'll leave it to your imagination what a screen or cathode bypass cap would do at resonance (hint: not much of what it's supposed to!).

I don't know if this applies to all ceramic caps, but since Heathkits and KWM-2s are stuffed full of them, I hope not. Just the same, before you tear out your last hank of hair, you might parallel another bypass cap in a misbehaving circuit. 73, mike k w9nrd/ae

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: jmartin@hrlban1.aircrew.asu.edu  
Subject: MIT Radiation Lab series  
Message-ID: <SA39+3Wv41a@hrlban10.alhra.af.mil>

William Donzelli wrote:

>Books from the MIT Rad Lab series show up at hamfests  
>quite a bit, but I have never seen the entire bunch for sale at once.  
>Someone may be reprinting them.

=====

I believe all the books in the series are available as reprints. Look in the back pages of an Antique Radio Classified, where ARC advertises the books they offer.

73, John Martin

jmartin@hrlban1.aircrew.asu.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: "James P. Rybak" <jrybak@mesa5.Mesa.Colorado.EDU>  
Subject: Re: MIT Radiation Lab series  
Message-ID: <Pine.SV4.3.91.960209151352.17606F-100000@mesa5.mesa.colorado.edu>

Antique Radio Classified no longer lists these reprints but can still supply them. Give the ARC folks a call.

Jim Rybak WOKSD

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: jmartin@hrlban1.aircrew.asu.edu  
Subject: more on Lucent  
Message-ID: <SA39+ovu4la@hrlban10.alhra.af.mil>

>It's a perfectly respectable adjective, meaning 'shining, luminous'  
>or, alternatively, 'transparent'.  
=====

You're absolutely right. I'm embarrassed to admit I didn't check my  
dictionary before writing that message.  
=====

>But for my money, AT&T will always be American Telephone and Telegraph  
>Company, and this latest bunch of name changes is just more Madison  
>Avenue hype.  
=====

I concur.  
73, John Martin  
jmartin@hrlban1.aircrew.asu.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com  
Subject: Re: New Name for Western Electric AKA Network Systems  
Message-ID: <9602091719.AA06451@bock.ih.att.com>

OK, you're close. "Lucent Technologies" includes good old Western E  
and a lot more besides. Bell Labs goes with Lucent, so we can put  
"Bell Labs Innovations" as a subtitle, although we can't use "Bell"  
as a brand name (the telcos got rights to that back in '84).

"AT&T" now just covers the long-dx phone company, and they will form their  
own "AT&T Labs" to do their system engineering and evaluation of equipment  
that they buy from suppliers (including Lucent, of course).

AT&T will be moving also into local telephone and maybe even cable TV  
as part of the Govt's exercise in tossing bloody meat into the water  
to watch the sharks eat each other's guts out.

I, and most everyone else here in the Chicago Bell Labs complex, are  
part of Lucent.

I had bet for months that NCR would take their maiden name back.  
I'm also relieved that at least there is no "Global" anywhere in our  
new name. 73, mike k w9nrd/ae

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: PEMS\_ST\_DK@noeca.ohio.gov  
Subject: OOPS ! UPS  
Message-ID: <01I10GG7RI0Y8WW2FF@noeca.ohio.gov>

My only experiences with UPS have been good. A recent delivery of my FT1000mp and various filters from all parts of the country was a pleasant experience. On time, not dinged and boxes with labels. A friend had a TenTec amp repaired and UPS damaged it in transit-They paid him in full for a new amp-no problems. Just like every area of life there are the GOOD UPS people and a FEW bad UPS people. Lucky for me Im serviced by the good guys!  
(That reminds me of the mailman who had \_\_\_\_\_pounds of mail in his house in \_\_\_\_\_ for over \_\_\_\_ years before they caught him)  
73 Dan W8CAR

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: "Ian Abbott" <ian@emerald.gene.com>  
Subject: OS-8 schematic, manual available  
Message-ID: <9602091126.ZM4799@emerald.gene.com>

Howdy-

I've got a schematic and most of the manual for the OS-8; I think it covers the B model, but it's at home and I'm at work.

If anyone wants a copy, send me an eMail directly with your snail mail address and I'll put it in the mail. I'll send the schematic for free- maybe you can return the favor someday. If you want the manual you can send me ten cents a page plus postage when you get it.

I think the OS-8 is a \*cool\* oscilloscope- my wife even thinks it's cute, which helps keep it around!

Hope this helps somebody!

Ian  
KC6UPT

--

-----  
Ian E. Abbott | abbott.ian@gene.com  
Genentech, Inc. | Voice: 415.225.1793  
Fermentation/Product Recovery | Pager: 415.655.9160

Information Systems Group

| Fax: 415.225.5947

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996

From: Bill Sorsby <bill.sorsby@dlep1.itg.ti.com>

Subject: Paper or Mica? Positive ID

Message-ID: <199602091437.IAA11228@dlep1.itg.ti.com>

Greetings,

FWIW, according to Editors & Engineers 1962 "Radio Handbook", those rectangular paper caps which look like micas come in two flavors, identified as follows:

- 1) Black body - commercial code indicating a paper capacitor
- 2) Silver dot in upper left hand corner - JAN code (Now, how can you tell if it's inverted?)

The 1947 version of TM11-866 (for SuperPro's) goes one step further and identifies the paper caps as having two silver dots; one in upper left hand corner and one in middle of bottom row. According to Editors and Engineers that middle dot indicates tolerance. Presumably then, one might find silver, gold or nothing in that position.

I agree with Robert Downs. I don't replace paper caps until they're proven bad. I did, however, once replace all the paper caps in an NC-57, after determining that most were bad. Someone posted yesterday that moisture absorption through the bakelite causes the degradation. Since all caps in a single radio see the same environment, once one bad one is found, others should be suspected.

Did I miss anything here? Comments?

Regards,

Bill Sorsby, N5BU

\*\*\*\*\*

bill.sorsby@dlep1.itg.ti.com

Views expressed herein are no one's fault but mine.

\*\*\*\*\*

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996

From: Greg Raven <gsraven@cris.com>

Subject: Probable Mica Cap Failure Mode

Message-ID: <199602091404.JAA20940@franklin-fddi.cris.com>

Greetings Boatanchorites-

I have read with interest the discussion of capacitor failures in our ancient equipment. Capacitors have to be the single most replaced item in boatanchor gear.

One comment I would like to add regards a possible failure mode, particularly of mica capacitors. I believe most of these are manufactured by plating a thin layer of silver onto the mica dielectric. The leads are soldered on, and then the assembly is dipped in some type of plastic or epoxy to seal it up.

The problem begins if the seal is not good to begin with, or fails over time. Then a phenomenon called "metal migration" can take place. This occurs when the capacitor has a DC bias applied to it in the presence of moisture. The metal ions actually physically displace themselves and can form a path between the two electrodes of the capacitor, resulting in a capacitor turning into a resistor. This can of course wreak havoc on high-impedance vacuum tube circuitry.

I am by no means an electrochemist, so the above explanation of the metal migration problem is probably not quite right. Anybody have any further comments on this phenomena ?

73 de Greg Raven KF5N

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com  
Subject: Re: Probable Mica Cap Failure Mode  
Message-ID: <9602091834.AA06543@bock.ih.att.com>

I recall someone posting about this failure mode in the naked, unprotected silver-plated mica caps found inside modern (ie, 1950 or later) IF cans. I have a Gonset 63 with at least one of these buggers open, I think.

I don't know whether it's the primary or secondary, but based on your posting I'd guess the primary, with some voltage across it.  
Tnx es 73, mike k w9nrd/ae

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Radiomatt@aol.com  
Subject: R-1230 D/F receiver  
Message-ID: <960209140452\_418621089@emout04.mail.aol.com>

Just got one of these (Made by National Radio), but misdsing power supply and D/F indicator (apparently part of Direction finding set).  
Fairly modern: uses some nuvistors! as well as miniatures.  
NEED BOOK AND MISSING PARTS.  
Help.please

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: "basalop" <basalop@eskimo.com>  
Subject: Reactivating Thoriated-Tunsten Filaments  
Message-ID: <199602090611.WAA28070@mail.eskimo.com>

Thoriated -tungsten filaments (and only thoriated-tungsten filaments) which have gone "flat" as a result of insufficient filament voltage, a sever temporary overload, a less severe extended overload, or even normal operation may quite frequently be reactivated to their original characteristics by a process similar to that of the original activation. However, only filaments which have not approached too close to the end of their useful life may be successfully reactivated. The filament found in certain makes of tubes may be reactivated three or four times before it will cease to operate as a thoriated emitter.

The actual process of reactivation is simple enough and only requires a filament transformer with taps allowing voltage up to about 25 volts or so. The tube which has gone flat is placed in a socket to which only the two filament wires have been connected. The filament is then "flashed" for about 20 to 40 seconds at about 1 1/2 times normal rated voltage. The filament will become extremely bright during this time and, if there is still some thoria left in the tungsten and if the tube didn't originally fail as a result of an air leak, some of this thoria will be reduced to metallic thorium. The filament is then burned at 15 to 25 percent overvoltage for from 30 minutes to 3 or 4 hours to bring this new thorium to the surface.

The tube should then be tested to see if it shows signs of renewed life. If it does, but is still weak, the burning process should be continued at about 10 to 15 percent overvoltage for a few more hours. This should bring it back almost to normal. If the tube checks still very low after the first attempt at reactivation, the complete process can be repeated as a last effort.

As has been mentioned above, thoriated-tungsten filaments are operated at about 1900 K or at a bright yellow heat. A burnout at normal filament voltage is almost an unheard of occurrence. The ratings placed upon tubes by manufacturers are figured for a life expectancy of 1000 hours. Certain types may give much longer life

then this but the average transmitting tube will give from 1000 to 5000 hours of useful life.

Copied from the 1947 edition of Editors and Engineers Radio Handbook

73 Jim

Packet radio: K7SLI @ K7SLI.#NWWA.WA.NA  
Internet: basalop@eskimo.com  
FAX: 360-659-1360

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com  
Subject: Re: Reactivating Thoriated-Tungsten Filaments  
Message-ID: <9602091743.AA06486@bock.ih.att.com>

Thanks for the info. Does this not also apply to some antique receiving tubes, such as the 200 family (201A, etc) and 199 and maybe other direct-heated AC tubes like 26, 45, 71A, 2A3, etc.?

Bringing back low-emission 201A types would be very important to antique radio collectors. I met one once who claimed to have a sure-fire but fairly complex procedure for it. Probably more complex than what you described, but then maybe not. I've also heard 2x, not 1.5x, the rated voltage recommended for the initial "flash", but you may want to consult your cardiologist first :-)  
73, mike k w9nrd/ae

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Radiomatt@aol.com  
Subject: Siemens SW receiver  
Message-ID: <960209140302\_418620000@emout07.mail.aol.com>

Looking for help on a Model 440 Siemens SW receiver from the early 50s. Uses a barlow-wadley loop circuit to cover 1.5 to 30 MHz in many many bands each 100 kHz wide; you then have a bandspread dial like an odometer that reads from-5 to 100 to calculate the exact freq. Dials are in English. Works on 110vac.  
A real quality piece, with USB/LSB switch, multi bandwidths, etc.  
NEED HELP ON GETTING MANUAL in US.  
Works OK at about 6-8 MHz, but dead above and below.  
Anybody have one to compare notes?



From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com  
Subject: Re: The Thorated-Tungsten Filament  
Message-ID: <9602091734.AA06480@bock.ih.att.com>

Wow, that's a lot of steps, and a lot of time, to make a good TX tube filament. You don't suppose that cutting corners or hours on any of these steps is what makes the Red Chinese stuff a little less, uh, solid than the old Eimacs or even Soviet bottles? 73, mike k w9nrd/ae

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu  
Subject: Top Band Boatanchor Glowbug Party Tonight!  
Message-ID: <9602092032.AA105864@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu>

OK, there, mateys..... batten down yer hatches, grapples ye up yer tin cans, an' fires ye up yer bottles, cuz by the midwatch there be a festivities a'brewin' tonite, bye the full of the moon, or the wane if it be. Come up fer a fine nite's watch aboard the QRG 1802R5 QTR 0200-0700Z an' makes yerself known amongst the crew with a signature on the hour, to wit.....

CQ BA/GB CQ BA/GB DE yourcall yourcall K

or, if the crew be already thereabouts, a simple.....

DE yourcall

will breaks the bedlam and makes yer presence known amongst them there, an' joins in ye will to the fine sparks an' crackle an' din o' the ol' top bande. Brews yerself a fine and goodly pot o' java, fer ta keeps yer eyeballs a'perkin', an' makes faste yer key bye the fore, an' talcs up yer fingers so they be ready, they be.....

Avast all ye Boatanchorites and Glowbugs about. Fer 'tis has been 'eard, bye the byes, that such fair ladies o' the ether as Miss Henrietta Hartley and Big Bertha Radiomarine will surely be there. An' likewise, bye the byes, 'tis has been said, amongst the bilgewater rats who plys them thar ethers in the night, that such beasts of the glowing firebottes as the most well known BCus-375us and BCus-348us, will surely follow.

Lurkers amongst the crew, betwixt and between passage, will be wont to render forthe such reports of signals as they be 'eard, as be fittin'.

Aye, there mateys, tis a fine nite fer rattle-an'-banging some fine holes in the ether, it be.....

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: garland@MPS.OHIO-STATE.EDU (James C. Garland)  
Subject: Trip to Fair Radio Sales  
Message-ID: <01I107NUPQGG8WVYVB@MPS.OHIO-STATE.EDU>

I spent the day yesterday with a friend at Fair Radio Sales, in Lima, Ohio. Most BAers have heard about FRS, but I thought some of you who have never seen the place would be interested in a capsule description. FRS is an old family run business. It is housed in several large (and mostly unheated!) warehouses, maybe three or four acres total storage space. It is truly an unbelievable place, with electronics boxes of every conceivable purpose and vintage stored on racks, pallets, and shelves perhaps 20 feet high. To give you an example, I inquired whether they had an HP 8601A sweep generator for sale, and I was given a flashlight, sent into a freezing, drafty warehouse to a shelf at the end of a long dark corridor stacked high with equipment, and there sat about forty 8601As, ranging in condition from poor to good.

FRS has one service technician, named Don, who has worked there for decades. Don has a cardtable-sized "workbench" with an ancient scope, nixie tube freq counter, and DVM has his disposal. When FRS "checks out" a radio, a KWM2 for instance, Don plugs it in, sees that it lights up without smoke, and trys it for power output. That's about as far as the checkout goes. Sometimes he mixes and matches circuit board from various units to get one that appears to work.

I get the impression Don spends more time on R390As, which they sometimes "restore" by installing meters and slathering paint on the cabinets, but if you get one don't count on it being in good alignment. Don hasn't the expertise or time to really go through a radio.

I know there is lots of interest in the KWM2s, 30L1s and 30S1s that FRS has been selling. Most of them were in pretty rough condition, but in any case they are now pretty much all gone. I saw a couple of parts radios, which appeared to me to already have been stripped of meters, knobs, escutcheons, cover plates and cabinets. I saw no 516F2s or other accessories.

There were many shelves filled with military communication gear, but that's not an interest of mine so I can't say whether there were any goodies. Just so you won't feel disappointed, one pristine-looking R392 sitting by its lonesome on a shelf did catch my eye. (For those of you who know about such things, the serial number was in the 6000s and ended with the suffix R.) I swear it looked brand new, so if you're looking for one you might give them a call. I didn't inquire about the price but Phil, the owner, is no dope about such things so don't expect to steal it for a couple hundred bucks.

There are barrels of loose components, so I'd definitely give them a call if you need a special tube, tube shield, connector or panel meter. If you're going to the Dayton Hamvention, you might want to stop in first to look around. I'm told it's quite crowded then, so be forewarned. (Last year a tour bus of Japanese bargain hunters stopped there just before the Hamvention!)

73,

Jim W8ZR

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: jmartin@hrlban1.aircrew.asu.edu  
Subject: TX tube filaments  
Message-ID: <SA39+pkv4la@hrlban10.alhra.af.mil>

Mike Knudsen W9NRD/AE wrote:

Wow, that's a lot of steps, and a lot of time, to make a good TX tube filament.

=====

Carburized thoriated tungsten filaments are used in receiving tubes and maybe some low power transmitting tubes only. The heavier gauge tungsten filaments in higher power TX tubes are not thoriated or carburized. Due to the high potentials used in these high power tubes, any residual gas molecules which become ionized will, due to their positive charge, accelerate toward the cathode (filament in this case). A thoriated filament will not tolerate abuse due to ions striking it, and would quickly be damaged. On the other hand, the pure heavier-gauge tungsten used in high power TX tubes will tolerate a certain amount of such bombardment without loss of performance. Of course, this isn't the only reason to get as much gas as possible out of a tube before seal-off.

73, John Martin

jmartin@hrlban1.aircrew.asu.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996  
From: Peter Gerba <pgerba@crl.com>  
Subject: UPS  
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960209104822.23058A@crl14.crl.com>

I'll try to be short.

This morning I had to ship a package via UPS due to it's weight. While I was leaving the UPS Bldg. I remembered a story a friend of mine, an inspector for UPS, told me.

Boxes, out-going at UPS in San Francisco, are placed in sorting rooms. The UPS workers are given a time limit in which to empty the rooms. The only reason a box should be left in the room after the time limit is if the label is unreadable or missing. He said when under pressure, (boxes still in the room beyond the time limit) the sorters will remove the labels from the boxes or otherwise deface the label, so as not to be dinged for low performance.

pete  
pgerba@crl.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: buska@aaic.advantest.com (d.buska@advantest.com)  
Subject: Value on old RCA's etc.  
Message-ID: <96020908083696@aaic.advantest.com>

A friend of mine has a few very nice old receivers that were trying to determine a proper value for.

1. RCA Radiola Senior Tuner-Detector: A nice little regenerative receiver that uses one WD-11 tube. Covers 190-500 Meters. 1922 vintage. Has a solid mahogany case, highly polished, with hinged cover, black bakelite panel. This is mint condition. My Collectors guide gives a price of about \$120.
2. RCA AC Two-Stage Amplifier (matches above): Two stage amplifier (2- WD11's) Same case as used with the Radiola Senior. This is also in mint condition. Can't find any reference to this in my collector books.
3. Magnavox Reproducer (Horn Speaker): Ddidn't see a model number on this one. Looks like a R-3 model though. Condition is a 9. A little paint is gone from the outside rim of the horn. The Magnavox logo looks just fine. It was used with the RCA setup above.
4. Philmor Blackbird Xtal Set: Nice little galena crystal set. It's in a black case about 8 inches HxWxD. The front is sloping style, like those used for meters, with one dial that wipes the internal tuning coil. The front panel is silver. This isn't mint, but rates about a 9 out of 10.

All these items are one owner! Yes he has had these since he was a kid. Right now he plans on holding onto them, but he said I was first on his list when he decides to pass them on, bless his heart! I'm just interested in what these things might be worth these days. Not that I'd ever want to sell them, but to

make us both aware of what were really dealing with.

I found both the RCA's in my repro of the 1923 Andrae Radio Supplies Catalogue. They were both right at the beginning of the catalogue. So maybe these things were sold by the hundred thousands (like the AK 20's) and thus many-many still exist.

If you have any more information on these I'd appreciate it. If you seen them forsale at the swapmeets what were they asking?

73

Don N900

d.buska@advantest.com

P.S. You think I could get the RCA's up on 160 AM? Nah!

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996

From: johnmb <johnmb@nando.net>

Subject: Vintage audio clips on BA WWW Page. Sure!

Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960209125321.5125B-100000-100000@bessel.nando.net>

Dick D, and Michael C mention:

[...]

>PS: Maybe we could make up a collection of .voc or .wav files and put

>them in the archives. This stuff should be preserved!

Indeed, yes! Perhaps even as Real Audio files on the BA home page?

I'm game... I have a REAL reasonable price on the  
web space I'm renting! No problem... and a great idea!

/john

PS: Those with suitable audio clips, please write. I can convert  
to .wav

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 17:26:02 1996

From: "Rhett T. George" <rtg@ee.duke.edu>

Subject: What's inside?

Message-ID: <199602092144.QAA86368@ee.duke.edu>

- Greeting, Good Friends -

I have been cleaning the old W. A. Collins Audio FM-11 AM-FM tuner and am seeing some parts of the chassis for the first time. Not have a schematic, some things guessed at are now resolved. First IF stage is id'd on the chassis as a 6AG5, but is a 6AK5 with the correct height bayonet tube shield. The 2 limiters (after 3 gain stages) are 9001's. This looks like a reasonable choice for the task. While cleaning one, I noticed that the inside extensions of the tube pins to which the elements are welded are coated with a white material which looks like powder, but does not shake off. At the other end of the vacuum, the getter is bright and solid on the tube surface. The gain on the tester check higher on this one than on the other 9001 which has internal parts of normal appearance.

Has anyone else seen coatings on those portions of pins internal to the base?

73  
Rhett George - KE4HIH  
rtg@ee.duke.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Feb 9 12:04:52 1996  
From: RWAYNE@ctc.Net  
Subject: WTB: BC-312 Name Plate  
Message-ID: <01I103IC50CW8ZMXEE@SUNBELT.NET>

I am looking for a BC-312 nomenclature plate / tag that mounts on the front panel to the right of the bandswitch knob. I have the four mounting screws, but no tag.

Please contact me if you can spare one of these tags. Thanks.

I used the BC-312 in the CX last weekend on CW. It seems to work fine on 100 VAC input to the built-in RA-20 supply. I imagine the caps like the lower voltage too.

73,  
Richard W4CBG  
rwayne@ctc.net